President's reply.—As regards the Ezhava Bill I have already stated that there is a clause enabling any family of the Ezhava community to secure exemption from the operation of the new enactment. Nothing more can be said at present. The suggestions of the Member will be noted for consideration.

Your suggestions that three out of the six members nominated to the Assembly should be *misravazhi* Ezhavas and that there should be an agent in England for developing the trade of Travancore coir, etc., will also receive consideration.

167. Suggestions for the general advancement of the Siddhanar community.

Mr. P. N. Sankaran (Member, Nominated) represented that, although the community which he represented was one lakh strong, it had no representatives either in the Legislative Council or in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, while Ezhavas, Mahomedans and Christians had 6, 4 and 6 nominated spokesmen respectively. He prayed that his community might be represented by 2 members in the Assemby and one member in the Legislative Council.

(*b*) The Member next stated that the Siddhanar community had long been very poor and had no houses of their own nor any means of earning their livelihood. He therefore prayed for the grant of house sites and materials for the construction of houses to the community. Another prayer of the Member was that an extent of 25 acres be set apart in each division for registry on nominal assessment in the name of the Siddhanar Sanghom so that the profits accruing therefrom might be utilised for the uplift of the community.

He then explained the loose character of the marital alliances obtaining in the community and requested that an enactment might be passed prohibiting polygamy. The committee was following the Makkathayam system of inheritance, and the Member represented that that law might be enforced in the community.

The Member next stated that the name of "Kuravar" by which his community was known had become a byword of reproach and therefore prayed that it might be changed into Siddhanar in official communications, as was done in the case of certain other communities. The Member in justification of the name proposed referred to certain current traditions about the origin of the community. He also requested that the few members of his community who had passed the Vernacular School Leaving examination be employed in the public service. One Bhavani, a lady Bhagavatar of his community, did not receive any encouragement at the hands of the Department, and the Member prayed that some special consideration be shown to her.

President's reply.—As regards Bhavani, I may say that the Director of Public Instruction reports that she was sent away from the Training School, because she did not pass the music examination, and that she will get a pay of Rs. 17 immediately.

Your request for the enactment of a law to regulate marriages in your community, the nomination of two members to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and one to the Legislative Council from among you, and the recognition by the Government of your caste name as "Siddhanar" will be noted for consideration.

Your request for the reservation of 25 acres of *puduval* land in each division especially for assignment to Siddhanars will also be examined.

168. Grievances of Nadars.

Mr. K. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar (Member, Nominated), while thanking the Government for the very valuable help they were giving to the Nadar community, prayed that they might be pleased to nominate at least two members from that community to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly from the next year onwards.

He then pointed out that, though in Madras a Nadar had been nominated as a member of the Legislative Council in addition to an elected member of the same community, and though even minor communities such as Anglo-Indians were represented in the local Legislative Council, it was a misfortune peculiar to the Nadar community not to have even one nominated member in the local Legislative Council. He

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to nominate one Nadar member to that body at least next year.

He then observed that, though the Government were aware of their backwardness in education as being due to their poverty and though half-fee concessions were allowed to the members of that community in the High Schools and in the Law College, Government were not pleased to extend the concession to the students of the Arts Colleges. He therefore prayed that the said concession might be extended to the students of the Arts Colleges also and that the extension might be granted retrospectively, so as to admit of the excess already paid being refunded.

The Member then prayed that, since, as compared with other communities, there were only a few students belonging to his community who profited by the vernacular education given in departmental schools, Government might be pleased to extend half-fee concession to the Nadar pupils of vernacular schools.

He next said that, considering the deplorable state of the education of Nadar women in spite of the half fee concession allowed to them, Government might be pleased to wholly exempt Nadar girl students from payment of fees.

He represented that backwardness in education would not be removed by half-fee or even full fee concessions alone and that special encouragement in the shape of scholarships should be given to Nadars.

In the matter of the use of roads, satroms, etc., the Nadar community was not receiving equality of treatment with other communities in the State. Nadar villages had no approach roads and the persons interested were too poor even to maintain them, much less to construct new ones. The Member observed that the people of Tengumputur constructed a road from Dharmapuram and that they now found it impossible to gravel it. He prayed for the roads leading to Nadar villages being constructed at Government cost.

His next grievance was that tanks and channels were being provided for some communities at State cost, while such a privilege was not being enjoyed by other communities. In the hot season some villages which suffered from scarcity of water did not enjoy the right of securing a supply of Kodayar water, while some others did. He requested that tanks be constructed even in places where there were channels.

His next request was that flights of steps be provided to channels, tanks, etc., in their locality, as, without them, they were practically useless. He pointed out that some tanks had more of that convenience than what was warranted by necessity.

He then dealt with the supply of drinking water to their locality and said that wells had to be sunk to a depth of 100 to 150 feet and that the people were too poor to undertake such costly work. He therefore requested that wells might be constructed at Government cost. He pointed out that the Nadars of Irulappapuram and Pillayarpuram constructed deep wells, but stopped short as they could not complete them. He requested that those wells might be completed at Government cost.

The Member next complained that the jaggery industry was not being helped by the Government. After supplying local needs, jaggery to the value of Rs. 15,00,000 was being exported from the country, and it was a pity that in preference to such a profitable industry, encouragement was being afforded to the tapping of fermented toddy. As a result of representations made in the Legislative Council and the Popular Assembly for the last two years, the Dewan had declared that it was the intention of the Government to put an end to liquor traffic in due course and that liquor shops would gradually be reduced in number. It was not necessary here to dilate on the evils of drink. The drunkard lost not only his money but also his brains and character. It would be infinitely more profitable to draw sweet toddy from the palmyrah and manufacture jaggery out of it, than to draw fermented toddy. It would also be to the credit of the Government to encourage that industry. It would give work to a large number of people, if arrangements could be made for the manufacture of sugar out of jaggery. Further, the profit that now went to enrich people outside would come to their own people.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The Member stated that till last year there was no graduate in the Nadar community and that one Mr. E. Ekambara Nadar had recently passed the B. A. Degree Examination, securing a second class in Mathematics. The Member's request was that Mr. Ekambara Nadar might be given a suitable appointment either in the Huzur Cutcherry or in the High Court. He also requested that other young men of his community who had passed the E. S. L. C., the Vernacular School Leaving or any other similar examination might be entertained in the public service and that those who held only acting appointments might be posted in permanent vacancies.

Passing on to the Ayurveda system of medical relief, the Member said that the Nadars who mostly lived in villages had much faith in it and that there were many able physicians among them. As an instance he mentioned the name of Kumaraswami Nadar of Agastisvaram and stated that, in spite of many an application for a grant to his Vaidyasala, no such aid was given by the Government. The Member then requested Government to sanction a grant to the Vaidyasalas of Kumaraswami Nadar and some other members of his community and the opening of a Government Vaidyasala for the use of every four or five villages.

As Government temples were not open to the members of his community, the Member stated that separate temples might be erected for their use.

President's reply.—Your representation as regards the nomination of representatives of your community to the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly is noted.

As regards the half-fee concession to the pupils of your community, you say that the existing concession should not be abolished. This is noted.

As regards the appointment of Mr. Ekambara Nadar, his application which you have given me will be forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for consideration.

You referred to the maintenance of the road from Pottal to Dharmapuram. The Chief Engineer tells me that no representation on the matter has been made to him. He will take the necessary steps when your representation reaches him.

Regarding the flights of steps in the bathing ghat, if you show the Chief Engineer the places where you want them, he will consider the matter.

Your representations for the erection of separate temples for your community and as regards their needs are noted.

169. Needs and grievances of Salias.

Mr. P. Ananchaperumal Tarakanar (Member, Nominated) conveyed the thanks of his community for nominating him to represent the Salia community in the Assembly and requested that such nominations might be made in all the years in which his community might fail to get one of its members elected to the Assembly. He then referred to the weaving school at Nagercoil and stated that it was of no use to the members of his community and that its teachers had not sufficient proficiency in the profession. With a view to improve the working of that institution, the Member suggested the appointment of a committee composed of a weaving expert and four or five non-official members, which might be empowered to report on the measures deemed necessary for its improvement. He also suggested that Salia or Saurashtra young men might be sent to foreign countries at Government cost for training in weaving and that on their return their services might be utilised by Government. He further requested that qualified young men of his community be appointed as teachers in weaving schools.

The Member next requested that the half-fee concession enjoyed by certain classes of people backward in point of English education might be extended to his community. With a view to encourage female education in the community he urged the need of a Government school for girls at Vadasseri, as the London Mission schools in the locality were not popular on account of the religious instruction imparted in them. His last request was that qualified Salia young men be largely entertained in the public service.

President's reply.—You want separate representation for your community in public bodies. Your representation is noted for consideration.

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